

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4677

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN UNN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF UNN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT UNN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG UNN

AMCONSUL MUNICH UNN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, NATO

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRG RESPONSE TO KISSINGER ASSOCIATED
PRESS LUNCHEON ADDRESS

REF: A. BONN 5854; B. BONN 5883

SUMMARY: THE KISSINGER ADDRESS WAS A TOP STORY IN THE
GERMAN MEDIA ON APRIL 25, RECEIVING HEAVY FACTUAL AND
EDITORIAL COVERAGE. MOST REPORTS HEADLINED THE POSITIVE
REACTION TO THE SPEECH IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND OTHER
EUROPEAN CAPITALS, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE NOTICE WAS ALSO
TAKE OF THE REPORTEDLY LUKEWARM FRENCH RESPONSE.
EDITORIALISTS GREETED THE SPEECH AS A USEFUL IF OVERDUE

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INDICATION OF THE APPROACH THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION ITNEDS TO TAKE TO THE " YEAR OF EUROPE". THE GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE SPEECH REFLECTED A REALIZATION BY AMERICAN LEADERS THAT THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT FULL MATERIAL AS WELL AS POLITICIAL SUPPORT FROM ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS SAW THE ADDRESS AS USHERING IN A NEW ERA IN U. S./ EUROPEAN RELATIONS, RANKING IN IMPORTANCE WITH THE ROIGNAL ATLANTIC CHARTER AND THE HISTORIC MARSHALL PLAN SPEECH OF 1947. END SUMMARY.

1. HAVING PICKED UP THE STORY TWENTY- FOUR HOURS LATE BECAUSE OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY (REF A), MOST GERMAN PAPERS CONCENTRATED THEIR APRIL 25 COVERAGE ON BACK-GROUND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE REACTION TO AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS. THE FEDERAL GOVT WAS REPORTED AS BEING HONESTLY PLEASED WITH THE CONTENT OF THE SPEECH, WITH " OFFICIAL CIRCLES" IN BONN BEING QUOTED AS NOTING THAT THE U. S. IDEAS FIT IN VERY WELL WITH PROPOSALS FOR AN INSTITUTIONALIZED U. S./ EUROPEAN DIALOGUE WHICH THE CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR MANY MONTHS. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE FACT THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT WILL BE THE FIRST EUROPEAN LEADER TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AFTER PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS. OFFICIALS IN BONN ARE REPORTED AS ASSUMING THAT THE CHANCELLOR WILL GO TO WASHINGTON PREPARED TO PRESENT AN OFFICIAL GERMAN RESPONSE TO THESE IDEAS.

2. MOST REPORTS ALSO COMMENTED ON THE OVERWHELEMINGLY POSITIVE REACTION WHICH THE KISSINGER SPEECH HAS RECEIVED IN OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT THE FRENCH HAD STOOD OUT FOR THEIR LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, WITH MOST COMMENTATORS BELIEVING THE FRENCH FEARED THAT THE U. S. INITIATIVE WOULD BLOCK REALIZATION OF THE GUALLIST VISION FOR EUROPE. THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMENT THAT WITH THIS SPEECH THE U. S. HAD IN FACT GRASPED THE INITIATIVE FOR DIRECT- ING DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE OVER THE COMING YEARS, AND THAT, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS IN NATO AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNCILS MIGHT AT TIMES BE DIFFICULT, THERE WAS A GOOD

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CHANCE THAT THE U. S. CONCEPT WOULD BE ACCEPTED AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U. S. / EUROPEAN COOPARATION.

3. EDITORIALISTS COMMENTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN IN EUROPE A GENERAL SIGH OF RELIEF THAT THE U. S. HAD FINALLY ARTICULATED ITS IDEAS ON THE CONTENT

OF PROGRAMS TO BE CONCEIVED DURING THE " YEAR OF EUROPE". THESE IDEAS WERE WELCOME, BACause THEY DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY THE CONTINUING AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, BUT ALSO INDICATED THAT THE US. HAD FINALLY COME TO REALIZE THAT IN THE CHANGING SITUATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED ON THE CONTINENT, EUROPEAN SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WAS VITAL TO THE REALIZATION OF ITS OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, VIRTUALLY ALL EDITORIALISTS POINTED OUT THAT THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS COIN WOULD BE INCREASING U. S. DEMANDS FOR THE EUROPEANS TO ASSUME A HIGHER LEVEL OF THE BURDEN FOR SUPPORTING THE COMMON POLICIES. TO SEVERAL COMMENTATORS, THIS " CHANGE OF HEART" MEANT THAT THE U. S. AND EUROPE WERE ENTERING AN ENTIRELY NEW ERA IN THEIR RELATIONS. SEEN FROM THIS ASPECT, THE KISSINGER SPEECH WAS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH MUST BE CLASSED WITH THE ORIGINAL ATLANTIC CHARTER OF 1941 AND THE MARSHALL PLAN SPEECH OF 1947.

4. THE LEFT- CENTER FRANKFURT RUNDSCHAU REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF MOST COMMENTATORS WHEN IT NOTED THAT HTIS NEW SITUATION " DOES NOT FORECLOSE ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BY EUROPEANS THEMSELVES. THE MOST NOTABLE PARTS OF THE KISSINGER SPEECH WERE THOSE WHICH REVEAL THAT THE UNITED STATES NOW RECOGNIZES THAT A CERTAIN INDEPENDENCE EXISTS FOR WESTERN EUROPE... IT IS SIMPLY WRONG TO TRY AND BEHAVE AS IF THE (EUROPEAN) ECONOMIC GIANT OF TODAY IS STILL THE EUROPE OF THE MARSHALL PLAN. BUT THIS SITUATION DOES NOT ONLY LEGITIMATIZE CERTAIN EUROPEAN DEMANDS ON THE UNITED STATES; IT ALSO MEANS THAT THE EUROPEANS MUST TAKE EFFORTS OF THEIR OWN. IT IS CLEAR THAT BEHIND THE REVIEWED AMERICAN SECURITY GUARANTEE THERE ALSO EXISTS THE DEMAND FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE EUROPEANS THEMSELVES. AND THE AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH A DEMAND."

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